

The most contentious of my amendments over the years, one of which became law, resulted in suspending all U.S. support for and exchanges with the British police force in Northern Ireland, the Royal Ulster Constabulary, or RUC, until standards were met to vet RUC officers who engaged in human rights abuses. Those new standards were set and eventually then-President Bush was able to certify, in accordance with my law, that human rights principles were part of police training going forward, both in the RUC and in its reformed successor, the Police Service of Northern Ireland, or PSNI. With the improvements, the police exchanges were resumed.

That is the good news. But as the 20th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement milestone approaches, serious attention and effort to be paid to achieving the dream. First and foremost, the government in Northern Ireland seems unable to consistently function or even constitute itself. Also, after 20 years, despite many obvious successes and benefits of the Good Friday Agreement, and although no one wants to scrap it, no one would want to return to the killing, the reconciliation to some extent has stalled. One of the reasons is that long-standing cases have not been resolved.

Geraldine Finucane, widow of murdered human rights lawyer Patrick Finucane, submitted testimony for my March 22nd hearing. And she points out, and I quote in part, "My family has campaigned for a public inquiry into Pat's murder, but the British government has repeatedly failed to establish one. Instead, they have instigated one confined investigation after another, claiming to want to examine the facts or get to the truth, but always in a process conducted away from public view. One cannot but wonder at the pointlessness of conducting investigation after investigation that are doomed to fail, no matter how forceful the conclusions, because they lack the transparency required to attain public confidence."

As Geraldine points out further in her testimony, "the 1998 agreement represent a new beginning that would mark a point from which the new future for everyone in Ireland, north and south, could be launched. What was not appreciated or acknowledged, however, was the fact that moving forward also meant dealing with the past." And of course, that is something that this Commission and my Subcommittee on Human Rights has tried to do for the last 20-plus years.

I would like to just point out too, testimony that's been provided to us by the Committee on the Administration of Justice, again, a very important quote from them, "In a highly disturbing development, and notwithstanding the reality that only a small number of legacy cases relate to British soldiers, a recent report of the Commons Defense Select Committee called for the enactment of a statute of limitations covering all troubles related to incidents involving members of the armed forces. This concept effectively means a selective amnesty for crimes committed by British soldiers." The Commons Defense Select Committee also suggested that it be extended to the RUC and other security force members. This position is, of course, completely contrary to human rights standards and, if were enacted, would probably be found unlawful by the courts. Nevertheless, the U.K. government has said that it will include the proposed in a forthcoming consultation on the implementation of the Stormont House Agreement. That is a dan-

gerous backtracking on the part of the British government. Hopefully it will cease and desist in moving in that direction.

TRIBUTE TO VICKY AND ALAN SEE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 5, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Vicky and Alan See of Peru, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on February 3, 2018.

Vicky and Alan's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies our Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them both nothing but continued success.

KATY STUDENTS NAMED NATIONAL MERIT FINALISTS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 5, 2018

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Tanner Scott and Morgan Long of Katy, TX for being named 2018 National Merit Finalists.

Only 50,000 students out of over 1.6 million are chosen to be National Merit Scholars based on their PSAT/NMSQT scores. The finalists were selected in February and the winners will be announced between April and June. Both Tanner and Morgan are seniors at Harmony School of Innovation and will attend college in the fall. Tanner has committed to Stanford for the class of 2022, where he plans to study biology and pre-medicine. Morgan plans to study physics and will share his college decision at the annual HPS College Acceptance Pep Rally April 19th.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Tanner and Morgan for this great academic accomplishment. I am proud of them and look forward to their future successes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID ROUZER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 5, 2018

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, an unforeseen medical condition prevented me from voting on 2/7/2018. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 61;

YEA on Roll Call No. 62; and
YEA on Roll Call No. 63.

CELEBRATING THE BICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN OF MILAN

HON. JOHN J. FASO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 5, 2018

Mr. FASO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the bicentennial anniversary of the founding of Milan, New York. Formerly part of the Little Nine Partners Patent, the Town of Milan was incorporated on March 31, 1818.

For two hundred years, Milan has taken part in the great American experiment, weaving together a diverse community and cultivating a strong civil society. This small bucolic town situated on the northern border of Dutchess County has celebrated many great triumphs of our nation and witnessed the nascent years of America's existence, but has also persevered through times of hardship. The strength and independence that continues to define this town are a result of principles instilled at its founding two centuries ago.

While the area has experienced many changes over the past two hundred years, the town of Milan is always eager to look to the future, but never forgets its past. Milan was built on a foundation of determination and resiliency with a strong community focus and a deep appreciation for a rural lifestyle. These core beliefs continue to guide and distinguish the community today.

This bicentennial anniversary marks a great milestone in Milan's history, and serves as an important time for reflection. On behalf of the 19th Congressional District and the U.S. House of Representatives, I would like to extend my deepest appreciation and congratulations to the town of Milan. As the residents celebrate its 200th birthday, I would like to commend them on the success of their small, thriving community and wish Milan continued prosperity in its next 200 years.

TRIBUTE TO DORIS AND KEN BARTLETT

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 5, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Doris and Ken Bartlett of Creston, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 70th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on January 16, 2018.

Doris and Ken's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies our Iowa values. As they reflect on their 70th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 70th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join